1	2	3	4	5	6
					clearences, the action for which has been initiated.
	Rupsa-Bangriposi	1997	9.64	70.36	Work is in progress.
	Ranchi-Lohardaga	1998	15.97	169.34	Work is in progress.
	Bankura Damodar River valley	2000	40.45	225.78	Work is in progress.

(d) These works will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources, and operational priority of the line.

Frustration among Scientists

770. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 27th May, 2001 captioned, "Not for the weak hearted" highlighting, *inter-alia* that inventions and discoveries are slowly strangled by red tape and scientists are reduced to despair;

(b) if so, the reaction thereto;

(c) the steps being taken to remove causes of frustration in the scientific fraternity;

(d) whether a National Innovation Policy advocated in certain elite groups is proposed to be formulated to develop and environment where innovation is recognised and nurtured; and

(e) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Government is fully alive to the needs and sensitivities of the scientific community in respect of inventions, discoveries and innovations, and is constantly endeavouring to ensure that spirit of invention and innovation is nurtured and a conducive environment provided. There are a large number of well-designed schemes, programmes and

mechanisms to facilitate innovation processes. The measures include *Inter-alia*, Patent Facilitation, Establishment of Science & Technology, Entrepreneurship Parks, Technology Business Incubators, Techno-Entrepreneur Promotion Programme (TEPP), Programme Aimed at Technology Self-Reliance (PATSER) and assistance provided by the Technology Development Board for the commercialization of innovative ideas and projects. There are also programmes for supporting grass-root level innovations through the National Innovation Foundation. Taken together, the various programmes offer a comprehensive range of services and facilities for scientific and technological innovations to flourish. Although there is presently no proposal for the formulation of a National Innovation Policy, the Government has taken note of the suggestions made in the news report.

Regulatory Authority for Biotech Agri-Products

771. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Biotech Association has been seeking clarifications from Government about setting up of a regulatory authority for biotech products, Genetically manipulated agri-products, the policy on segregation after genetically manipulated crops commercialised and the kind of labelling requirements necessary; and

(b) if so, the clarifications provided for safeguards against possible hazards of Genetically manipulated agri-products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) Sir, the All India Biotech Association has not submitted any formal representation or proposal for setting up of a regulatory authority for biotech agri-products.

(b) Does not arise, in view of the above.

Earthquake tremor in Jabalpur

†772. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the possibility of earthquake tremors likely to occur in Jabalpur, as per the scientific point of view;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.